

DOCKET NO.: ISPH-0590
SERIAL NO.: 09/918,187

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the instant application:

1. (Currently Amended) An synthetic antisense oligonucleotide compound 20 nucleobases in length comprising at least one modified nucleobase targeted to a 3'-~~untranslated region of a~~ nucleic acid molecule encoding human stearoyl-CoA desaturase (SEQ ID NO: 3), wherein said compound specifically hybridizes with said 3'-~~untranslated region of the~~ nucleic acid molecule encoding human stearoyl-CoA desaturase, comprises at least an 8-nucleobase portion of SEQ ID NO: 30, and inhibits the expression of human stearoyl-CoA desaturase by at least 10%.

Claims 2-3 (Canceled)

4. (Previously Amended) The compound of claim 1 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide comprises at least one modified internucleoside linkage.
5. (Original) The compound of claim 4 wherein the modified internucleoside linkage is a phosphorothioate linkage.
6. (Previously Amended) The compound of claim 1 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide comprises at least one modified sugar moiety.
7. (Original) The compound of claim 6 wherein the modified sugar moiety is a 2'-O-methoxyethyl sugar moiety.
8. (Canceled)
9. (Previously Amended) The compound of claim 1 wherein the modified nucleobase is a 5-methylcytosine.
10. (Previously Amended) The compound of claim 1 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide is a chimeric oligonucleotide.
11. (Canceled)
12. (Currently Amended) A ~~pharmaceutical~~ composition comprising the synthetic antisense compound of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

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13. (Original) The composition of claim 12 further comprising a colloidal dispersion system.

Claims 14-27 (Canceled)

28. (New) A method of inhibiting the expression of human stearoyl-CoA desaturase in cells or tissues comprising contacting said cells or tissues in vitro with the compound of claim 1 so that expression of human stearoyl-CoA desaturase is inhibited.